

(translation)

Column V Comment defined in the PCT rule 2.1 (a) (i)
concerning Novelty, Inventive step or Industrial Utilities, and
Document and Explanation supporting it

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2. Document and Explanation

The invention of claims 1 to 5 has novelty and an inventive step.

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(Document 1: JP 2003-12796 A (Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc.), 2003. 01. 15

15 Document 1 cited in International search report discloses a polyphenylene oligomer obtained by oxidation polymerization and represented by the formula (1) (claims), wherein a copper salt and an amine are used as catalysts (paragraph No. [0011]).

20 According to a comparison of the invention of claim 1 of the present application and the invention disclosed in Document 1, the amine to be used is specified in the former invention but the amine to be used is not specified in the latter invention. These inventions are different from each other in this respect. The invention of the present application agrees with the invention of Document 1 in other respects.

According to studies on the above difference, Document 25 1 discloses the amine specified in claim 1 of the present application as an example in paragraph No. [0011]. However, di-n-butylamine, which is used in Comparative Examples in the present application, is used in Examples of Document 1. Further, the present invention has the effect of obtaining an oligomer 30 having no amine adduct owing to the use of the specific amine. Therefore, it is recognized that the present invention has novelty and an inventive step.

(translation)

Column VIII

Opinion on International application

Opinions concerning the clearness of claims, specification and drawings

5 or sufficient support based on the specification for claims are as follows.

In Comparative Example 4 of the specification, the
maturation time of oligomer was 120 minutes and, as a result
thereof, Mw was 3500. However, the above Mw is smaller than that
10 of polyphenylene ether oligomer, represented by the formula (1),
of the invention of claim 1 wherein $n = m = 25$. It is recognized
that Comparative Example 4 is included in the present invention.
Therefore, the effect of the invention is not clear.